

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1 1. A computer implemented method comprising:  
2 retrieving a plurality of element properties  
3 corresponding to a plurality of elements, wherein the  
4 elements are adapted to be displayed on a display  
5 device, and wherein the element properties for each  
6 element includes a unique tab order number;  
7 positioning the selected elements in a display buffer  
8 in order of the element's tab order number, so that  
9 elements with lower tab order numbers are positioned  
10 towards the top of a display and elements with higher  
11 tab order numbers are positioned towards the bottom of  
12 the display; and  
13 rendering the display buffer on the display device.

1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 determining that the display device is a constrained  
3 display device, wherein the positioning further  
4 includes:  
5 positioning fewer elements in a horizontal  
6 orientation to one another than if the display  
7 device was not a constrained display device; and  
8 positioning more elements in a vertical  
9 orientation to one another than if the display  
10 device was not a constrained display device.

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the tab order number  
2 indicates a sequence that a cursor moves from one

3 element to another when a tab key is pressed by a  
4 user.

1 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2 altering the tab order numbers included in the element  
3 properties prior to the retrieving, positioning, and  
4 rendering steps, wherein the altering further  
5 includes:

6 retrieving an initial unique tab order number for  
7 each of the elements;

8 displaying, on a tab order display panel, the  
9 initial unique tab order numbers in a location  
10 proximate to the elements that correspond to the  
11 initial unique tab order numbers; and

12 swapping the initial unique tab order numbers  
13 corresponding to two of the elements, the  
14 swapping resulting in the tab order numbers that  
15 correspond to the two elements.

1 5. The method of claim 4 further comprising:

2 receiving a selection from a user of the tab order  
3 display panel, the selection corresponding to one of  
4 the initial unique tab order numbers, wherein the  
5 reception of the selection further includes:

6 detecting that the initial unique tab order  
7 number corresponding to a first element selected  
8 from the plurality of elements has been selected  
9 and dragged to a position proximate to a second  
10 element selected from the plurality of elements,

11            wherein the first and second elements are the two  
12            elements whose corresponding initial unique tab  
13            order numbers are swapped.

1    6.    The method of claim 4 further comprising:  
2            saving the altered tab order numbers that correspond  
3            to the two elements in the element properties that  
4            correspond to the two elements.

1    7.    An information handling system comprising:  
2            one or more processors;  
3            a memory coupled to the processors;  
4            a nonvolatile storage device;  
5            a display device accessible from the processors;  
6            retrieval logic for retrieving a plurality of element  
7            properties corresponding to a plurality of elements,  
8            wherein the elements are adapted to be displayed on  
9            the display device, and wherein the element properties  
10           for each element includes a unique tab order number;  
11           arrangement logic for positioning the selected  
12           elements in a display buffer in order of the element's  
13           tab order number, so that elements with lower tab  
14           order numbers are positioned towards the top of a  
15           display and elements with higher tab order numbers are  
16           positioned towards the bottom of the display; and  
17           display logic for rendering the display buffer on the  
18           display device.

1 8. The information handling system of claim 7 further  
2 comprising:

3 device type logic for determining that the display  
4 device is a constrained display device, wherein the  
5 arrangement logic further includes:

6 logic for positioning fewer elements in a  
7 horizontal orientation to one another than if the  
8 display device was not a constrained display  
9 device; and

10 logic for positioning more elements in a vertical  
11 orientation to one another than if the display  
12 device was not a constrained display device.

1 9. The information handling system of claim 7 wherein the  
2 tab order number indicates a sequence that a cursor  
3 moves from one element to another when a tab key is  
4 pressed by a user.

1 10. The information handling system of claim 7 further  
2 comprising:

3 alteration logic for altering the tab order numbers  
4 included in the element properties prior to the  
5 retrieving, positioning, and rendering steps, wherein  
6 the alteration logic further includes:

7 retrieval logic for retrieving an initial unique  
8 tab order number for each of the elements;

9 display logic for displaying, on a tab order  
10 display panel, the initial unique tab order  
11 numbers in a location proximate to the elements

12           that correspond to the initial unique tab order  
13           numbers; and  
  
14           sequencing logic for swapping the initial unique  
15           tab order numbers corresponding to two of the  
16           elements, the swapping resulting in the tab order  
17           numbers that correspond to the two elements.

1   11.   The information handling system of claim 10 further  
2       comprising:  
  
3       reception logic for receiving a selection from a user  
4       of the tab order display panel, the selection  
5       corresponding to one of the initial unique tab order  
6       numbers, wherein the reception logic further includes:  
  
7           logic for detecting that the initial unique tab  
8           order number corresponding to a first element  
9           selected from the plurality of elements has been  
10          selected and dragged to a position proximate to a  
11          second element selected from the plurality of  
12          elements, wherein the first and second elements  
13          are the two elements whose corresponding initial  
14          unique tab order numbers are swapped.

1   12.   The information handling system of claim 10 further  
2       comprising:  
  
3       storage logic for saving the altered tab order numbers  
4       that correspond to the two elements in the element  
5       properties that correspond to the two elements.

1 13. A computer program product stored on a computer  
2 operable media that includes software code effective  
3 to:  
4 retrieve a plurality of element properties  
5 corresponding to a plurality of elements, wherein the  
6 elements are adapted to be displayed on a display  
7 device, and wherein the element properties for each  
8 element includes a unique tab order number;  
9 position the selected elements in a display buffer in  
10 order of the element's tab order number, so that  
11 elements with lower tab order numbers are positioned  
12 towards the top of a display and elements with higher  
13 tab order numbers are positioned towards the bottom of  
14 the display; and  
15 render the display buffer on the display device.

1 14. The computer program product of claim 13 further  
2 comprising software code effective to:  
3 determine that the display device is a constrained  
4 display device, wherein the software code effective to  
5 position the selected elements further includes  
6 software code effective to:  
7 position fewer elements in a horizontal  
8 orientation to one another than if the display  
9 device was not a constrained display device; and  
10 position more elements in a vertical orientation  
11 to one another than if the display device was not  
12 a constrained display device.

1 15. The computer program product of claim 13 wherein the  
2 tab order number indicates a sequence that a cursor  
3 moves from one element to another when a tab key is  
4 pressed by a user.

1 16. The computer program product of claim 13 further  
2 comprising software code effective to:  
3 alter the tab order numbers included in the element  
4 properties prior to the retrieving, positioning, and  
5 rendering steps, wherein the software code effective  
6 to alter the tab order further includes software code  
7 effective to:

8 retrieve an initial unique tab order number for  
9 each of the elements;

10 display, on a tab order display panel, the  
11 initial unique tab order numbers in a location  
12 proximate to the elements that correspond to the  
13 initial unique tab order numbers; and

14 swap the initial unique tab order numbers  
15 corresponding to two of the elements, the  
16 swapping resulting in the tab order numbers that  
17 correspond to the two elements.

1 17. The computer program product of claim 16 further  
2 comprising software code effective to:  
3 receive a selection from a user of the tab order  
4 display panel, the selection corresponding to one of  
5 the initial unique tab order numbers, wherein the

6 reception of the selection further includes software  
7 code effective to:

8 detect that the initial unique tab order number  
9 corresponding to a first element selected from  
10 the plurality of elements has been selected and  
11 dragged to a position proximate to a second  
12 element selected from the plurality of elements,  
13 wherein the first and second elements are the two  
14 elements whose corresponding initial unique tab  
15 order numbers are swapped.

1 18. The computer program product of claim 16 further  
2 comprising software code effective to:

3 save the altered tab order numbers that correspond to  
4 the two elements in the element properties that  
5 correspond to the two elements.

1 19. A computer implemented method comprising:

2 retrieving a plurality of element properties  
3 corresponding to a plurality of elements, wherein the  
4 elements are adapted to be displayed on a display  
5 device, and wherein the element properties for each  
6 element includes a unique tab order number;

7 determining that the display device is a constrained  
8 display device;

9 positioning the selected elements in a display buffer  
10 in order of the element's tab order number, so that  
11 elements with lower tab order numbers are positioned  
12 towards the top of a display and elements with higher



13        tab order numbers are positioned towards the bottom of  
14        the display, wherein the positioning further includes:  
  
15            positioning fewer elements in a horizontal  
16            orientation to one another than if the display  
17            device was not a constrained display device; and  
  
18            positioning more elements in a vertical  
19            orientation to one another than if the display  
20            device was not a constrained display device; and  
21        rendering the display buffer on the display device.

1    20.   An information handling system comprising:  
2        one or more processors;  
3        a memory coupled to the processors;  
4        a nonvolatile storage device;  
5        a display device accessible from the processors;  
6        retrieval logic for retrieving a plurality of element  
7        properties corresponding to a plurality of elements,  
8        wherein the elements are adapted to be displayed on  
9        the display device, and wherein the element properties  
10       for each element includes a unique tab order number;  
11       determination logic for determining that the display  
12       device is a constrained display device;  
13       arrangement logic for positioning the selected  
14       elements in a display buffer in order of the element's  
15       tab order number, so that elements with lower tab  
16       order numbers are positioned towards the top of a  
17       display and elements with higher tab order numbers are

18 positioned towards the bottom of the display, wherein  
19 the arrangement logic further includes:

20 logic for positioning fewer elements in a  
21 horizontal orientation to one another than if the  
22 display device was not a constrained display  
23 device; and

24 logic for positioning more elements in a vertical  
25 orientation to one another than if the display  
26 device was not a constrained display device; and

27 display logic for rendering the display buffer on the  
28 display device.

29 21. A computer program product stored on a computer  
30 operable media that includes software code effective  
31 to:

32 retrieve a plurality of element properties  
33 corresponding to a plurality of elements, wherein the  
34 elements are adapted to be displayed on a display  
35 device, and wherein the element properties for each  
36 element includes a unique tab order number;

37 determine that the display device is a constrained  
38 display device;

39 position the selected elements in a display buffer in  
40 order of the element's tab order number, so that  
41 elements with lower tab order numbers are positioned  
42 towards the top of a display and elements with higher  
43 tab order numbers are positioned towards the bottom of  
44 the display, wherein the software code effective to

45 position the selected elements further includes  
46 software code effective to:

47 position fewer elements in a horizontal  
48 orientation to one another than if the display  
49 device was not a constrained display device; and  
50 position more elements in a vertical orientation  
51 to one another than if the display device was not  
52 a constrained display device; and  
53 render the display buffer on the display device.